

## CLAIMS:

1. A water purification system comprising:  
a water container comprising an upper reservoir for receiving unfiltered water, said  
5 upper reservoir having a lower opening; a filtering medium within the lower opening of  
the upper reservoir for filtering unfiltered water passing therethrough; and a lower  
reservoir for receiving water passed through the filtering medium, said lower reservoir  
having a lower opening; and  
a base for receiving the water container in fluid communication with the lower  
10 opening of the lower reservoir, said base comprising a purification technology for  
purification of water received from the lower reservoir; and a water circulator for  
circulating water between the lower reservoir and the purification technology.
2. The water purification system according to claim 1, wherein said filtering medium  
15 is located above and not extending into the lower reservoir.
3. The water purification system according to claim 1, wherein said water circulator  
comprises a pump, connections, and electronic controls.
- 20 4. The water purification system according to claim 1 wherein the base additionally  
comprises an ozone contacting device.
5. The water purification system according to claim 1 wherein the purification  
technology is selected from the group consisting of:  
25 a pair of electrodes for generating an electric field;  
a membrane of ultra, micro or nanofiltration;  
an ozone generator in combination with an ozone destructor and a centrifugal  
degasser;  
an ultraviolet (UV) light source; and  
30 an aeration or oxygenation device.

6. The water purification system according to claim 5, wherein the purification technology comprises an aeration or oxygenation device, and wherein atmospheric oxygen or pure oxygen is injected into the water via a venturi system.

5

7. The water purification system according to claim 6, wherein the water container additionally comprises a sparger positioned in the lower reservoir above the lower opening.

10 8. The water purification system according to claim 1 wherein said filtering medium is selected from the group consisting of:

a granulated activated carbon (GAC) cartridge; an extruded carbon sheet between layers of fabric material; an ion exchange resin; and one or more layers of fabric material.

15 9. The water purification system of claim 1, additionally comprising a fluid transfer port which interfaces with the base and the drinking water filtration device.

10. The water purification system of claim 9, wherein said double check valve comprises:

20 a) an outer body having an inlet and an outlet, with the first and second valve stems contained on said outer body;

b) the outlet in the outer body being the valve seat to said second valve stem; the first valve stem being smaller than the second valve stem, and contained within the second, wherein said valve stems operate along a common axis; the second valve stem  
25 having a cylindrical conduit passing therethrough in which the first valve stem is contained, and having a valve seat for the first valve stem therein; and

c) springs surrounding said first and second valve stems and acting on said valves to engage respective valve seats.

11. The water purification system of claim 3, wherein said electronic controls comprise an auto-sensing circuit which detects the presence of the filtration device on the base, activates an appropriate program, and illuminates a ready light.

5 12. The water purification system of claim 11, wherein said program is initiated when a user pushes a start button when said ready light is illuminated.

13. The water purification system of claim 12, wherein said program comprises a treatment period controlled by time and/or concentration, said treatment period consisting  
10 of:

a) drawing water from the lower reservoir via a pump,  
b) pumping water from (a) through the purification technology,  
c) directing water from (b) back into the lower reservoir; and  
d) communicating to the user via a light and/or audible alarm indicating that the  
15 container can be removed from the base.

14. A stand-alone drinking water purification device comprising:  
an upper reservoir for receiving unfiltered water, said upper reservoir having a lower opening;

20 a filtering medium within the lower opening of the upper reservoir for filtering unfiltered water passing therethrough, said filtering medium being selected from the group consisting of: a granulated activated carbon (GAC) cartridge; an extruded carbon sheet between layers of fabric material; and an ion exchange resin; and  
and a lower reservoir for receiving water passed through the filtering medium,  
25 said filtering medium being located above and not extending into the lower reservoir.

15. The drinking water filtration device of claim 14, wherein said device is a pitcher.

16. The drinking water filtration device of claim 14, wherein water is gravity-fed through said filtering media.

17. A method of sanitizing items, comprising:

5 providing the items and unsanitized water in an sanitizing container, the sanitizing container being in removable fluid communication with a sanitizing base unit; and  
treating the unsanitized water with the items in the sanitizing container, the step of ozonating including sanitizing the items as the water is being treated.

10 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of treating the unsanitized water comprises ozonating the unsanitized water.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of treating the unsanitized water with the items in the sanitizing container comprises:

- 15 a) drawing water from the sanitizing container via a pump,  
b) pumping water from (a) through a purification technology in the base unit, and  
c) directing water from (b) back into the sanitizing container.

20 20. An sanitizing container for sanitizing items, the sanitizing container for use with a sanitizing base unit, the sanitizing container comprising:

an outer container including a fluid transfer valve for removable fluid communication with the sanitizing base unit; and  
an item container for mating with the outer container, for receiving items to be  
sanitized.

25 21. An item sanitizing system comprising:

a container having a fluid transfer device and having an item holder for holding items in the container for sanitization;

30 a base for receiving the container in removable fluid communication with the fluid transfer device, said base comprising a purification technology for purification of water

received from the container; and a water circulator for circulating water between the container and the purification technology.

22. The item sanitizing system according to claim 21, wherein said water circulator  
5 comprises a pump, connections, and electronic controls.

23. The item sanitizing system of claim 22, wherein said electronic controls comprise  
an auto-sensing circuit which detects the presence of the filtration device on the base,  
activates an appropriate program, and illuminates a ready light.

24. The item sanitizing system of claim 23, wherein said program is initiated when a  
user pushes a start button when said ready light is illuminated.

25. The item sanitizing system of claim 24, wherein said program comprises a  
15 treatment period controlled by time and/or concentration, said treatment period consisting  
of:

- a) drawing water from the lower reservoir via a pump,
- b) pumping water from (a) through the purification technology,
- c) directing water from (b) back into the lower reservoir; and
- 20 d) communicating to the user via a light and/or audible alarm indicating that the  
container can be removed from the base.